

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

AGR-20 INT-08 SCEM-02 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01

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SUBJECT: JAPANESE REACTION TO SUMMIT

REF: TOKYO 9825

SUMMARY: SUMMIT HAS RECEIVED CONTINUING HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE IN JAPAN WITH FOCUS NOW ON CONTENT OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE. BOTH PRAISE AND CENSURE HAVE BEEN LOW KEY, AND CLEAR REACTIONS HAVE YET TO CRYSTALIZE.

1. ON AUGUST 2, JAPANESE MEDIA AGAIN PROVIDED COMPREHENSIVE TOP-PLAY TO NIXON-TANAKA SUMMIT. EARLY MORNING TV PROGRAMS GAVE IMMEDIATE DISSEMINATION TO CONTENTS OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE. NEWSPAPERS CARRIED TEXT AND BUILT STORIES ON BASIS OF COMMUNIQUE. VIRTUALLY ALL ARTICLES PICKED UP THEME OF GLOBAL VISION AND MULTILATERAL FRAMEWORK OF FUTURE US-JAPAN RELATIONS IMPLICIT IN LANGUAGE OF TEXT.

2. SUMMIT DOMINATED EDITORIAL PAGES AUGUST 3. LIKE EARLIER NEWS STORIES, MOST EDITORIALS EMPHASIZED GLOBAL CON-

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TEXT OF TALKS AND IDEA THAT TREATMENT OF JAPAN AS WORLD POWER

MARKED POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH US AND NEW ROLE FOR JAPAN. NONE, HOWEVER, OFFERED REALLY CLEAR IDEAS AS TO WHAT NATURE OF NEW RELATIONSHIP AND ROLE WOULD BE. RE QTE NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER UNQTE, NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN SAID, QTE JAPAN WILL BECOME ISOLATED IF IT REMAINS OUTSIDE GROWING MOVEMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COOPERATION AMONG ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES, UNQTE AND SANKEI SUPPORTED QTE FORWARD-LOOKING ATTITUDE RE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES BY ADVANCED INDUSTRIAL DEMOCRACIES. UNQTE MORE NEGATIVE ASSESSMENTS EXEMPLIFIED BY MAINICHI WHICH DOUBTED TANAKA HAD CONVINCED PRESIDENT THAT QTE JAPAN CANNOT TAKE PART IN NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER IF AIMED AT MILITARY COOPERATION. UNQTE ASAHI EDITORIALIZED INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND JAPAN ACQUIESCENCE IN NEW ATLANTIC CHARTER CONCEPT WHILE WEST EUROPEAN NATIONS' RESPONSE NOT YET CLEAR. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, BOTH MAINICHI AND ASAHI FLAGGED COMMUNIQUE LANGUAGE RE KOREA AND EXPRESSED CONCERN WHETHER GOJ CONTRIBUTIONS WOULD RETAIN NON-MILITARY CHARACTER. OTHER THAN STRONG ENDORSEMENT BY SANKEI, PRESIDENT-EMPEROR VISIT EXCHANGE RECEIVED LITTLE ATTENTION IN THIS INITIAL ROUND OF COMMENTARY. EXCEPT FOR YOMIURI WHICH DESCRIBED COMMUNIQUE AS QTE FRUITLESS UNQTE AND LACKING CONCRETE RESULTS, AND ASAHI WHICH FERRETED OUT PURPORTED DEFICIENCIES, EDITORIAL TREATMENT GENERALLY EVEN-HANDED AND LOW KEY.

3. ALL OPPOSITION PARTIES, WITH EXCEPTION DSP, ATTACKED SUMMIT FOR FURTHER INCREASING JAPAN'S QTE SUBSERVIENCE TO US UNQTE. DSP, HOWEVER, SAID MEETING HELPED BRIDGE COMMUNICATIONS GAP AND EASED FRICTIONS IN ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP. JSP, KOMEITO AND JCP ATTACKED QTE USE OF EMPEROR FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES UNQTE AND DESCRIBED PLANNED EXCHANGE OF VISITS AS DESIGNED TO STRENGTHEN US-JAPAN MILITARY SET UP. THEY VOWED TO OPPOSE EMPEROR'S VISIT IN DIET. AS EXPECTED, LDP LEADERS EXPRESSED FIRM BACKING FOR SUMMIT RESULTS.

4. BUSINESS LEADERS HAVE INITIALLY RESPONDED WITH MODERATE ENTHUSIASM. ACCORDING PRESS, KOGORO UEMURA, KEIDANREN PRESIDENT, ENDORSED QTE NEW PERSPECTIVE UNQTE IN US-JAPAN RELATIONS. YOSHIZANE IWASA, BOARD CHAIRMAN, FUJI BANK, REPORTEDLY EMPHASIZED PRESIDENT'S PROMISE OF STABLE FOOD SUPPLY AND NOTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SHIFT OF PRIORITY FROM TRADE BALANCE TO SUCH PROBLEMS AS FOOD SUPPLY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES. SOME BUSINESS FIGURES, HOWEVER, FAULTED COMMUNIQUE FOR FAILURE TO TAKE UP SUCH PROBLEMS AS INTERNATIONAL INFLATION AND JAPANESE ROLE IN DEVELOPING OIL AND NATURAL GAS RESOURCES IN SIBERIA.

5. COMMENT: MEDIA ANALYSIS TO DATE APPEARS HIGHLY TENTATIVE AND CLEAR REACTIONS HAVE NOT YET CRYSTALIZED.

DECONTROL 10/1/73.
SHOESMITH

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